REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the below remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 1 – 5, 9 – 15, 19 – 20 and 22 – 23 are pending in the application with Claims 11, 19 and 20 having been previously withdrawn. Of the claims elected for prosecution at this time, Claims 1 – 3, 9, 10, 12 and 13 being in independent form.

By the present amendment, Claims 1 – 5, 9, 10, 12 – 15, 22 and 23 are amended to clarify that the color layout features being extracted are MPEG-7 ColorLayout features. Additionally, Claims 2, 3 and 13 are rewritten as dependent claims depending from Claims 1 and 12, respectively. Support for the color layout features being MPEG-7 ColorLayout features is found throughout the disclosure, for example refer to page 23, lines 18 – 24 of the application as originally filed. Therefore, since adequate antecedent support is found in the disclosure as originally filed, no new subject matter is introduced into the disclosure by way of the present amendment.

As has been argued in previously submitted remarks, neither Bruckhaus nor Nagasaka et al. anticipate nor suggest extracting color layout features of the type defined in the International Standard ISO/IEC 15838-3 MPEG-7 VISUAL..." (See: page 23, lines 4 – 24). The present amendment to the claims clarifies that the extracted color layout features are MPEG-7 Colorlayout features which are nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited prior art references.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are believed to be allowable over the prior art.

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1 – 5, 9, 10, 12 – 15, 22 and 23 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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